

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 09298 281420Z  
ACTION SS-25

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R 281402Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1144

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 09298

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: UR, US, PARM, XO, CAT  
SUBJECT: MENDELEVICH ON CAT AND IO TALKS

REF: MOSCOW 6771

1. AT LUNCHEON MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR APRIL 27 MENDELEVICH TALKED IN GENERAL TERMS ABOUT THE SOVIET APPROACH TO CAT AND THEIR DESIRES WITH RESPECT TO THE TIMING OF CAT AND INDIAN OCEAN TALKS. ON THE LATTER POINTS, IN THE PAST, HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE SOVIET WISH TO SEE THE TALKS ON BOTH ISSUES CONTINUE AT A FAIRLY RAPID PACE WITH ONLY SHORT INTERVALS BETWEEN ROUNDS. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE HELSINKI SESSION OF CAT "CONSULTATIONS," BE FOLLOWED IN LATE MAY OR JUNE BY A ROUND OF THE INDIAN OCEAN TALKS AND ANOTHER SESSION OF CAT IN JULY. THE NEED ACCORDING TO MENDELEVICH, IS TO KEEP THE MOMENTUM OF THE CONVERSATIONS UP.

2. ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE COMING ROUND IN HELSINKI MENDELEVICH COVERED MUCH OF THE SAME GROUND AS IN HIS APRIL 4 CONVERSATIONS (REFTEL). HE DID ADD THE FOLLOWING POINTS OF INTEREST:

-- THE SOVIETS WILL TAKE THE LEAD PRESENTING THEIR THOUGHTS ON CAT WITH AN EMPHASIS ON THE LEGAL/POLITICAL ISSUES IN-  
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VOLVED. MENDELEVICH INDICATED THAT THESE ISSUES WOULD INVOLVE THE QUESTION OF WHICH STATES WERE "ENTITLED" TO RECEIVE ARMS, AND CITED SOUTH AFRICA AS ONE WHICH WAS NOT "LEGALLY" ENTITLED BECAUSE OF A UNSC RESOLUTION. HE DID NOT GIVE A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE KINDS OF INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS WHICH COULD RENDER ARMS TRANSFERS TO CERTAIN RECIPIANTS "ILLEGAL" BUT HE CITED THE DIFFERENCE

BETWEEN THE AUTHORITY OF A UNSC RESOLUTION, FOR EXAMPLE, AND A UNGA RESOLUTION.

-- MENDELEVICH STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE "LEGAL/POLITICAL" UNDERPINNINGS OF ANY DISCUSSION OF CAT BUT HE DID NOT TAKE ISSUE DIRECTLY WITH ANY OF THE FOUR APPROACHES THE U.S. OUTLINED IN ITS DECEMBER PRESENTATION, NOR, HE VOLUNTEERED, DID HE OBJECT TO A CONSIDERATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL APPROACHES. BUT HE DEFINITELY CONSIDERED THESE ARE SECONDARY TO A DISCUSSION OF THE "LEGAL/POLITICAL" BASIS.

-- IN A SIDE CONVERSATION WITH THE POLCOUNSELOR MFA COUNSELOR AND SOVIET CAT DELEGATION MEMBER, A.M. BELONOGOV, WENT A BIT FURTHER BY SPECIFICALLY CITING CHAPTER SEVEN OF THE UN CHARTER ON THREATS AND BREACHES OF THE PEACE AND AGGRESSION TO INDICATE "ILLEGITIMATE" ARMS TRANSFERS. IN STRESSING THE DESIRABILITY OF REACHING A POLITICAL UNDERSTANDING ON CAT BELONOGOV REFERRED TO A FIRST PART BEING A GENERAL STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES, AND A SECOND PART BEING A MORE SPECIFIC APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTATION. HE IMPLIED THAT BELOW THIS TWO-TIERED POLITICAL LEVEL WOULD COME THE "TECHNICAL" DETAILS. TOON

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## Message Attributes

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